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THE PUNISHER 2099
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MORGAN '93
+ PALMIOTTI
JIGSAW 2099 GOES TO PIECES!
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HIS FAMILY WAS MURDERED BY A PSYCHOPATH IN AN AGE WHERE JUSTICE CAN BE BOUGHT AND NO ONE BELIEVES IN OLD FASHIONED *PUNISHMENT* ANYMORE... NO ONE EXCEPT *JAKE GALLOWS*... A WEAPONS SPECIALIST IN THE *PUBLIC EYE* POLICE FORCE BY DAY, AT NIGHT HE IS INCORRUPTIBLE JUSTICE.

STAN LEE PRESENTS:

THE PUNISHER 2099

THE GATHERING STORM

PAT MILLS & TONY SKINNER
WRITERS

TOM MORGAN
PENCILER

PALMIOTTI + FLORIMONTE
INKERS

KEN LOPEZ
LETTERER

IAN LAUGHLIN
COLORIST

JOEY CAVALIERI
EDITOR

TOM DEFALCO
CHIEF

PUNISHER 2099™ Vol. 1, No. 11, December, 1993. (ISSN # 1058-3505) Published by MARVEL COMICS, Terry Stewart, President, Stan Lee, Publisher, Michael Hobson, Group Vice President, Publishing. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, NY 10016. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, NY AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Published monthly. Copyright © 1993 Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price $1.25 per copy in the U.S. and $1.50 in Canada. Subscription rate for 12 issues: $15.00 U.S.; $27.00 foreign; and Canadian subscribers must add $5.00 for postage and GST. GST #R127032852. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the condition that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or marterage removed, nor in a mutilated condition. PUNISHER 2099 (incauding all prominent characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof) is a trademark of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO PUNISHER 2099, c/o MARVEL COMICS, 9TH FLOOR, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, NY 10016. PRINTED IN U.S.A.

NICE PUNCH, PUN! BUT I GOT A NEW TOY...
...I CAN NOW CONTROL MY HYPER-DRIVE... IT'S GOT FOUR STAGES...
ONE... TWO... THREE...
...AND OVER THE TOP!
MY ENERGY ACCUMULATORS CAN'T TAKE ANOTHER OF THOSE...
GOTTA TAKE THE FIGHT TO HIM.
HOW D'YOU LIKE THEM APPLES?

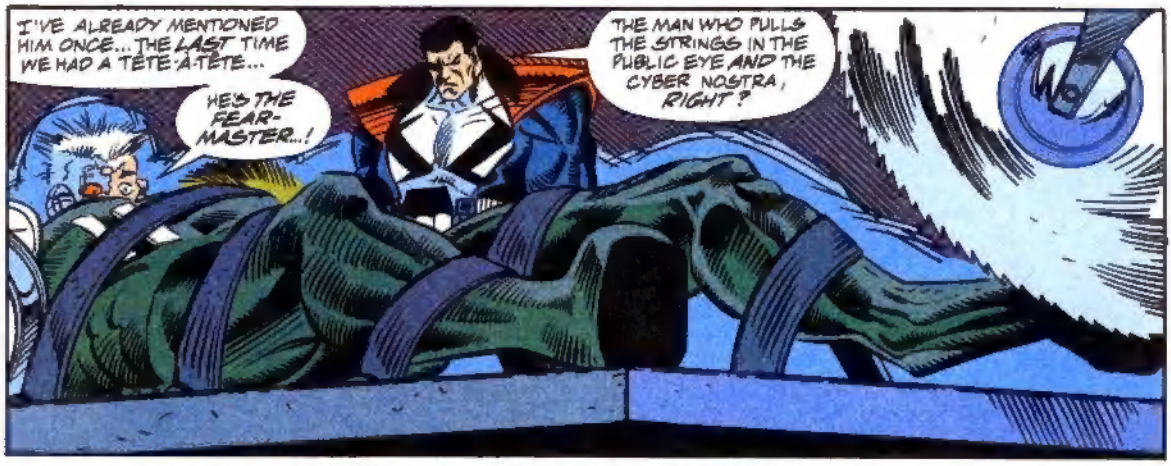
... THIS!
GUNHH!
JUST AS MUCH AS YOU'RE GONNA LIKE...
GOTTA BE CAREFUL. NOW THAT MULTI-FRACTOR'S BECOME JIGSAW... NO WAY OF KNOWING HOW MUCH PUNISHMENT HE CAN TAKE...

TRICK OR TREAT, DEADWARE!
I'M GONNA... GOOMF!
FIGURED AS MUCH-- CRYO-GRENADE SHOULD SHUT HIM UP...
KEEP STILL--THIS WILL HURT A LOT!
GONNA PUT YOU ON ICE, PUNK!
IT WORKS ON THE THERMAL ENERGY IMPLOSION PRINCIPLE... ALL JIGSAW'S BODY HEAT IS SUCKED INSTANTANEOUSLY INTO THE CORE OF THE GRENADE...
...LEAVING HIM 200 DEGREES BELOW FREEZING IN A SPLIT SECOND!

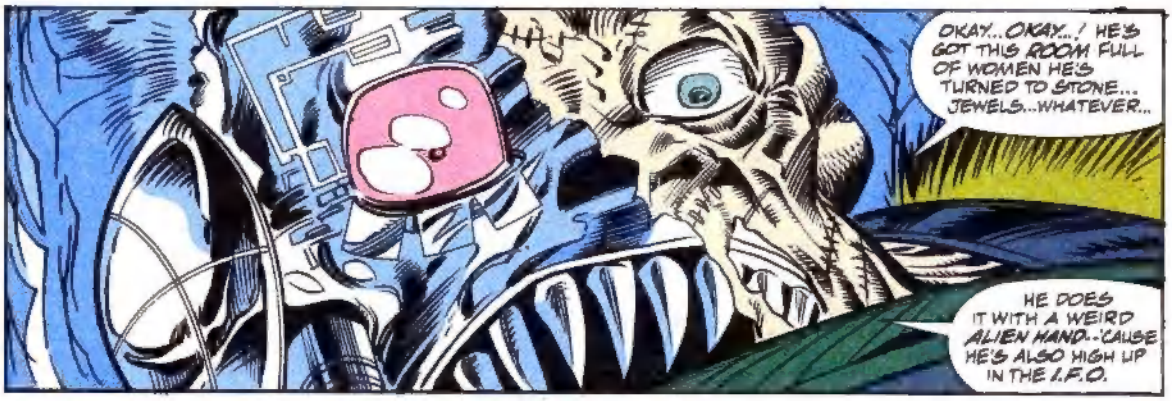
THAT'S CRAMPED HIS STYLE A LITTLE.
KLANG
I'VE GOT A FEELING ALL THIS WAS A TRAP SET FOR ME... I LOVE THE WAY THIS HAS TURNED OUT.
BUT I NEED ANSWERS FROM HIM BEFORE I EXECUTE HIM...
AND I'VE GOT A MACHINE THAT WILL PERSUADE EVEN JIGSAW TO TALK.
HE'S BEGINNING TO THAW OUT...
PITY. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN GOOD TO SEE HIM SMATTER ON THE FLOOR.
THUDD
WHERE AM I? S-SO COLD...
THAT'S BECAUSE I FROZE YOU...
WHILE YOU'RE THAWING OUT, TAKE A LOOK AROUND YOU, PUNK.

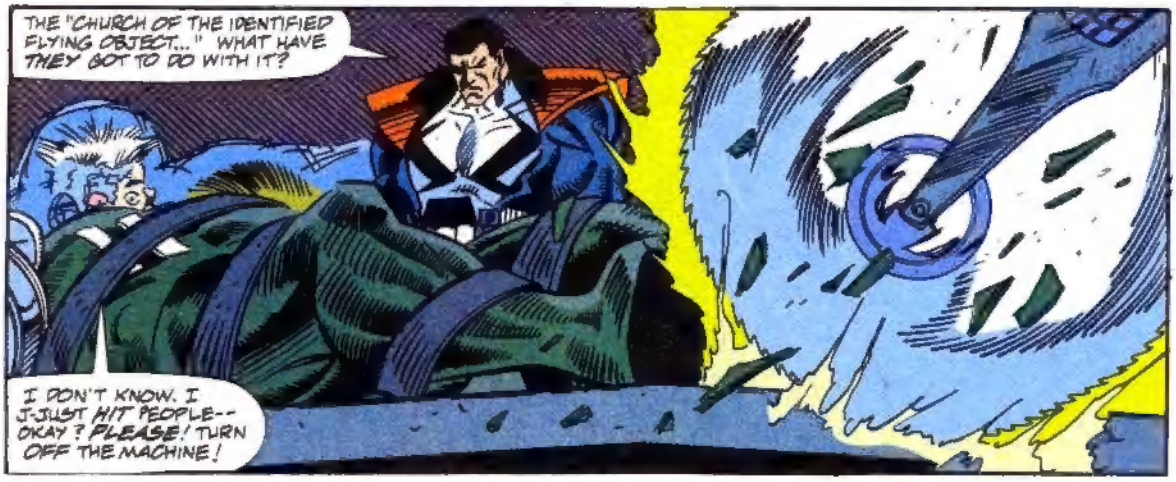
YOU SEE... I DON'T LIKE TO CHOP FROZEN MEAT!
BZZZZ
BZZZZ
YOU ARE SICK!

WHY D-DON'T YOU JUST SHOOT ME?
BECAUSE THIS DEVICE WILL CHOP YOU UP AN INCH A MINUTE...
I RECKON YOU'LL HAVE TOLD ME ALL I NEED TO KNOW BY THE TIME IT REACHES YOUR HIPS..
YOU'LL BE IN SO MANY PIECES, THEY'LL NEVER STITCH YOU TOGETHER AGAIN, JIGSAW!
LOOK... ASK... I'LL TELL YOU ALL YOU WANT TO KNOW... I'M NOT A HERO... I PREFER WIPING OUT HELPLESS PEOPLE.
I LOST SOMEONE VERY SPECIAL TO ME... A PUBLIC EYE PARA-PSYCH NAMED KERRY.
SHE DIED IN A PARTICULAR WAY. TURNED TO GLASS. TELL ME, MINCEMEAT-- KNOW ANYONE WHO CAN KILL LIKE THAT?


I'VE ALREADY MENTIONED HIM ONCE... THE LAST TIME WE HAD A TÊTE-À-TÊTE...
HE'S THE FEAR-MASTER...!
THE MAN WHO PULLS THE STRINGS IN THE PUBLIC EYE AND THE CYBER NOSTRA, RIGHT?

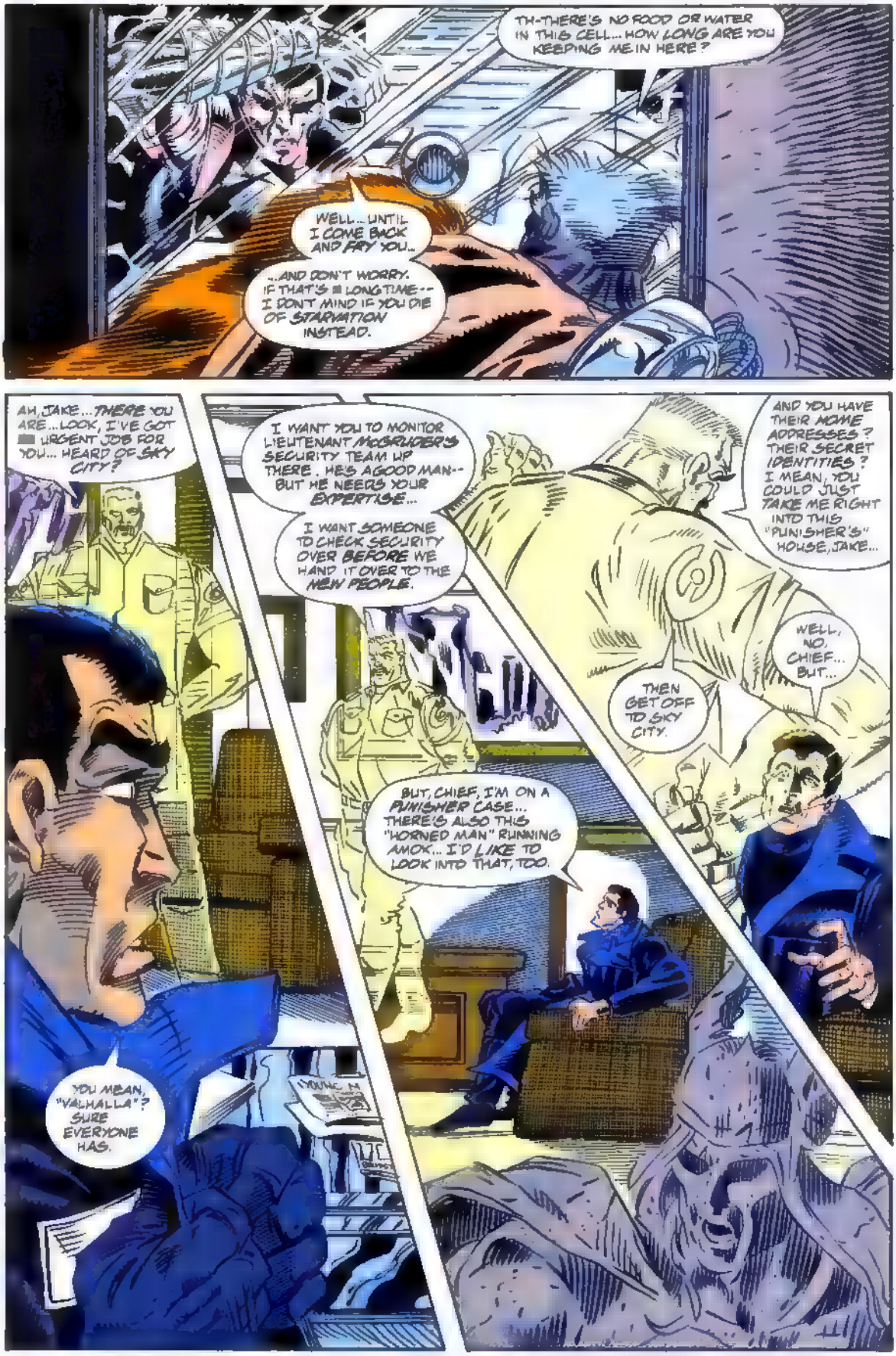
YES, YES... HE'S ALSO ONE OF THE BIG WHEELS AT ALCHEMAX... HIS REAL NAME'S DARRYL KING...
LOOK-- I'LL EVEN LEAD YOU TO HIM... JUST SWITCH THE MACHINE OFF!
NOT YET. KEEP TALKING.

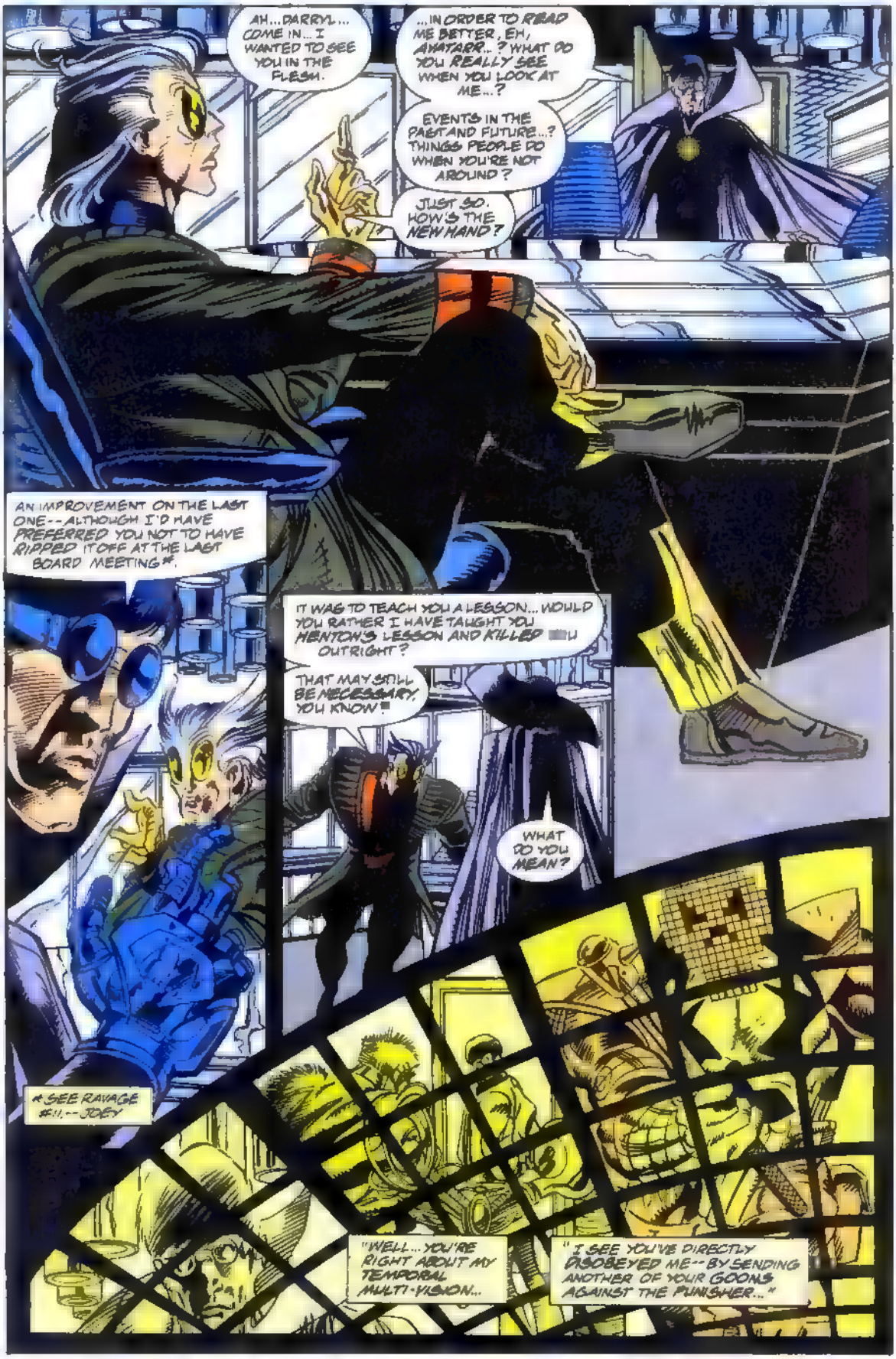

OKAY... OKAY...! HE'S GOT THIS ROOM FULL OF WOMEN HE'S TURNED TO STONE... JEWELS... WHATEVER...
HE DOES IT WITH A WEIRD ALIEN HAND.-'CAUSE HE'S ALSO HIGH UP IN THE I.F.O.


THE "CHURCH OF THE IDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT..." WHAT HAVE THEY GOT TO DO WITH IT?
I DON'T KNOW. I J-JUST HIT PEOPLE-- OKAY? PLEASE! TURN OFF THE MACHINE!

I DON'T KNOW... I'M KINDA ENJOYING THIS...
YOU'RE SHOCKIN' MAD...!
NOT AS MAD AS YOU'RE GONNA BE!
VR! TH-THIS IS A VR ROOM! THERE WAS NO TORTURE EQUIPMENT!
I-I BLABBED FOR NOTHING!
NO. NOT FOR NOTHING.
FOR KERRY!

HE'S STILL STIFF AND COLD... BUT THE MOLECULAR DISINTEGRATOR WILL THAW HIM OUT.
...JUST A NANOSECOND BEFORE IT VAPORIZES HIM.
WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?
TO ANOTHER MACHINE-- BUT THIS ONE'S REAL.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YOU'RE A MURDERER, MULTI-FRACTOR... THIS MACHINE WON'T CHOP YOU UP... BUT IT WILL KILL YOU...
YOU MUST DIE FOR YOUR CRIMES.
DOMESTI-COM SYSTEMS
JAKE... THE CHIEF'S ON THE HOLO...
BLAST! I WAS REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS...
OKAY, 'PUTER-- STALL HIM UNTIL I'VE CHANGED.
YOU'LL HAVE TO STAY IN [redacted] UNTIL I'M READY FOR YOU TO DIE IN THE CHAIR.
THE WALLS ARE TUNGSTEN--GLASS...SO FEEL FREE TO BEAT YOURSELF TO DEATH TRYING TO ESCAPE... IT WILL SAVE ON ENERGY.


TH-THERE'S NO FOOD OR WATER IN THIS CELL... HOW LONG ARE YOU KEEPING ME IN HERE?
WELL... UNTIL I COME BACK AND FRY YOU...
...AND DON'T WORRY. IF THAT'S A LONG TIME-- I DON'T MIND IF YOU DIE OF STARVATION INSTEAD.
AH, JAKE... THERE YOU ARE... LOOK, I'VE GOT AN URGENT JOB FOR YOU... HEARD OF SKY CITY?
I WANT YOU TO MONITOR LIEUTENANT McGRUDER'S SECURITY TEAM UP THERE. HE'S A GOOD MAN-- BUT HE NEEDS YOUR EXPERTISE...
I WANT SOMEONE TO CHECK SECURITY OVER BEFORE WE HAND IT OVER TO THE NEW PEOPLE.
AND YOU HAVE THEIR HOME ADDRESSES? THEIR SECRET IDENTITIES? I MEAN, YOU COULD JUST TAKE ME RIGHT INTO THIS "PUNISHER'S" HOUSE, JAKE...
WELL, NO, CHIEF... BUT...
THEN GET OFF TO SKY CITY.
BUT, CHIEF, I'M ON A PUNISHER CASE... THERE'S ALSO THIS "HORNED MAN" RUNNING AMOK... I'D LIKE TO LOOK INTO THAT, TOO.
YOU MEAN, "VALHALLA"? SURE EVERYONE HAS.

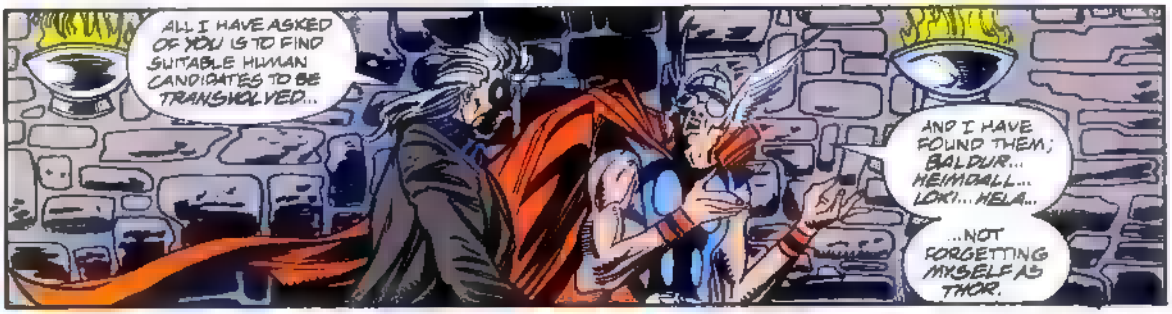

AH...DARRYL... COME IN... I WANTED TO SEE YOU IN THE FLESH.
...IN ORDER TO READ ME BETTER, EH, AVATARR...? WHAT DO YOU REALLY SEE WHEN YOU LOOK AT ME...?
EVENTS IN THE PAST AND FUTURE...? THINGS PEOPLE DO WHEN YOU'RE NOT AROUND?
JUST SO. HOW'S THE NEW HAND?
AN IMPROVEMENT ON THE LAST ONE--ALTHOUGH I'D HAVE PREFERRED YOU NOT TO HAVE RIPPED IT OFF AT THE LAST BOARD MEETING*.
IT WAS TO TEACH YOU A LESSON... WOULD YOU RATHER I HAVE TAUGHT YOU HENTON'S LESSON AND KILLED [redacted] OUTRIGHT?
THAT MAY STILL BE NECESSARY, YOU KNOW.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
* SEE RAVAGE #11. --JOEY
"WELL... YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT MY TEMPORAL MULTI-VISION...
"I SEE YOU'VE DIRECTLY DISOBEYED ME--BY SENDING ANOTHER OF YOUR GOONS AGAINST THE PUNISHER..."

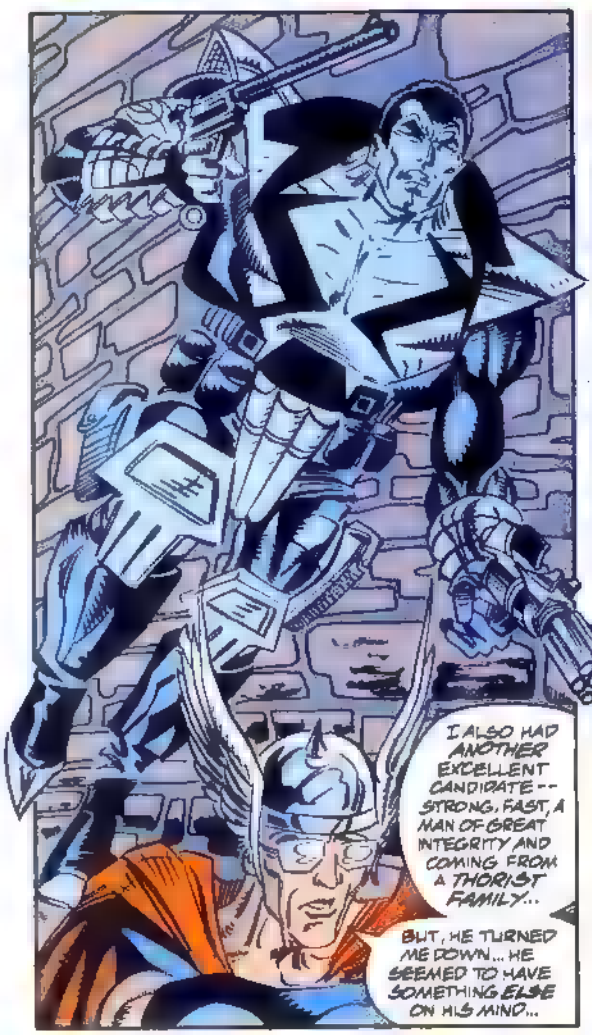
I EXPRESSLY MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE WHOLE PURPOSE OF VALHALLA AND THE "NEW PEOPLE" WAS TO ERADICATE THE SPREADING DISEASE OF SO-CALLED HEROES..
"THE PUNISHER... THE HIGH-TECH VIGILANTE, HUNG UP ON JUSTICE...
...AND RAVAGE--WHO I NOW SEE--HAS TURNED INTO SOME PRIMEVAL HORNED BEAST...
"DOCTOR DOOM, THE SELF-PROCLAIMED MASTER OF THE CYBERVERSE...
...ALTHOUGH HE HAS YET TO INFILTRATE MY SYSTEM.
"THIS SPIDER-MAN... AN ARACHNOPHILE WITH AN ATTITUDE..

"AND A VERITABLE VIRAL INFECTION OF 'SUPER PEOPLE' WINGING THEIR WAY FROM OUT THE PAST..."
AND SUCH ICONS--AS YOU SAID AT THE MEETING--ARE GAINING IN POPULARITY WITH THE PUBLIC...
...AND--WHAT WAS YOUR CONCERN?
"THAT THEY PROVIDE A POTENTIAL ROLE MODEL FOR DISOBEDIENCE--EVEN REBELLION."
WHICH BRINGS ME TO YOUR OWN DISOBEDIENCE...
AVATARR, THAT'S THE WHOLE POINT... THE PUNISHER WAS BECOMING A FOLK HERO...
I HAD TO MOVE QUICKLY AGAINST HIM.
WELL, CONFINE YOUR ENERGIES TO YOUR NEW TASK AS CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF ECO...
BY THE WAY, DOES HENTON'S EMPTY CHAIR SUIT YOU?
I HAD TO REMOVE SOME PADDING, SIR, BUT IT FITS JUST FINE.
THEN LEAVE THE PROBLEM OF THE PUNISHER, ET AL, TO THE NEW SUPER TEAM SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED FOR THE TASK OF WIPING THEM OUT...!

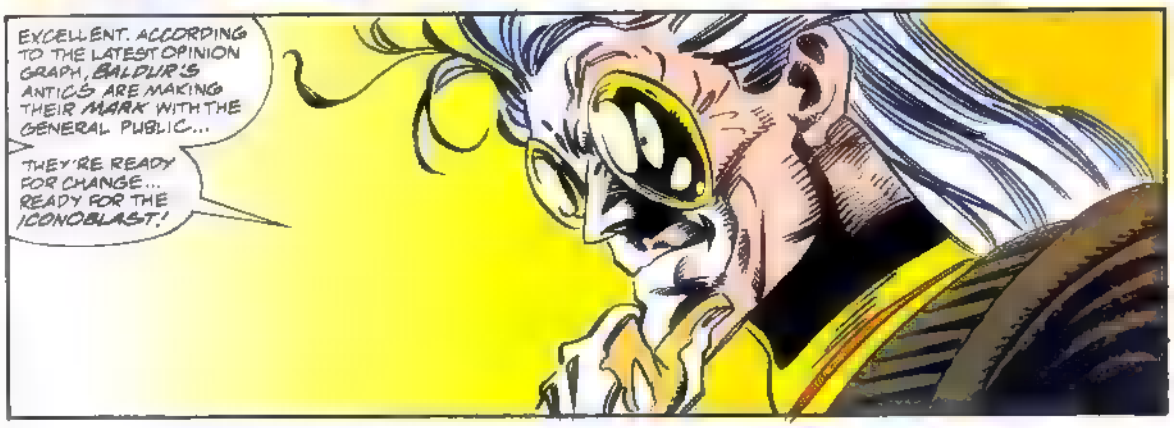
GODS OF VALHALLA... SHOW ME A SIGN.
I'VE GATHERED FOUR TO THY CAUSE... AND BEAR THE HAMMER OF THOR MYSELF...FOR THY GREATER GLORY...
...THAT A NEW GOLDEN AGE OF HEROES MAY RETURN TO THIS TROUBLED REALM.
I HAVE PUT MY SPIRIT IN YOUR HANDS AND MY TRUST IN ALCHEMAX... YET STILL I HAVE DOUBTS.
SHOW ME A SIGN OF THY BLESSING...
:GASP!:

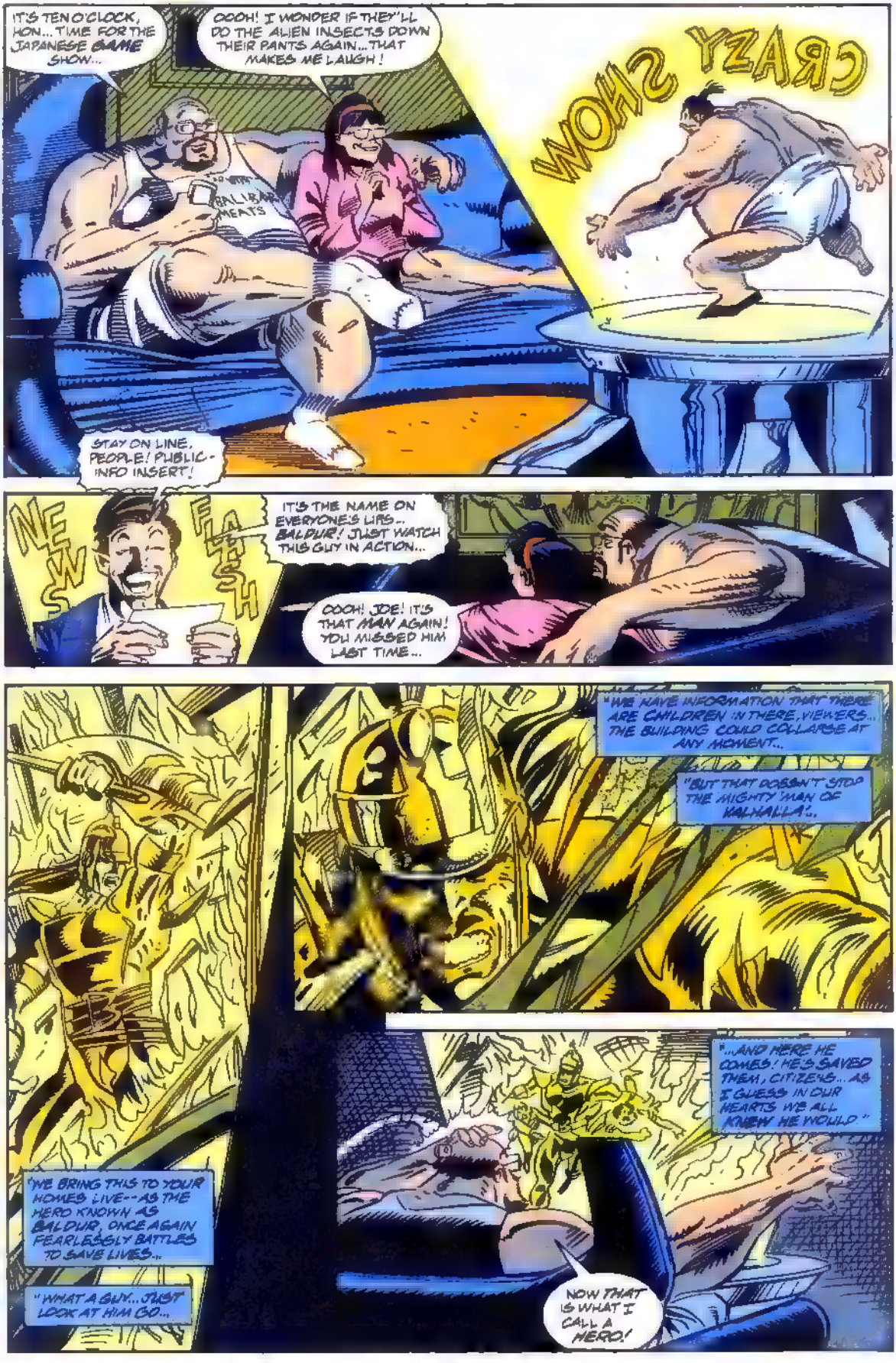
DOUBTS, EH, REVEREND?
I DON'T LIKE DOUBTS IN MY EMPLOYEES.
AYATARR!
I--I WAS SIMPLY OVERWHELMED BY THE VASTNESS OF THE TASK BEFORE ME...I MEAN US...
VAST? YOU FLATTER YOURSELF, McADAM...YOUR PART OF THE PROJECT IS HARDLY VAST...
THE CONSTRUCTION OF VALHALLA--NOW THAT WAS VAST...
AND ONLY A SMALL STEP IN MY OVERALL PLAN...


ALL I HAVE ASKED OF YOU IS TO FIND SUITABLE HUMAN CANDIDATES TO BE TRANSVOLVED...
AND I HAVE FOUND THEM; BALDUR... HEIMDALL... LOKI... HELA...
...NOT FORGETTING MYSELF AS THOR.


I ALSO HAD ANOTHER EXCELLENT CANDIDATE -- STRONG, FAST, A MAN OF GREAT INTEGRITY AND COMING FROM A THORIST FAMILY...
BUT, HE TURNED ME DOWN... HE SEEMED TO HAVE SOMETHING ELSE ON HIS MIND...

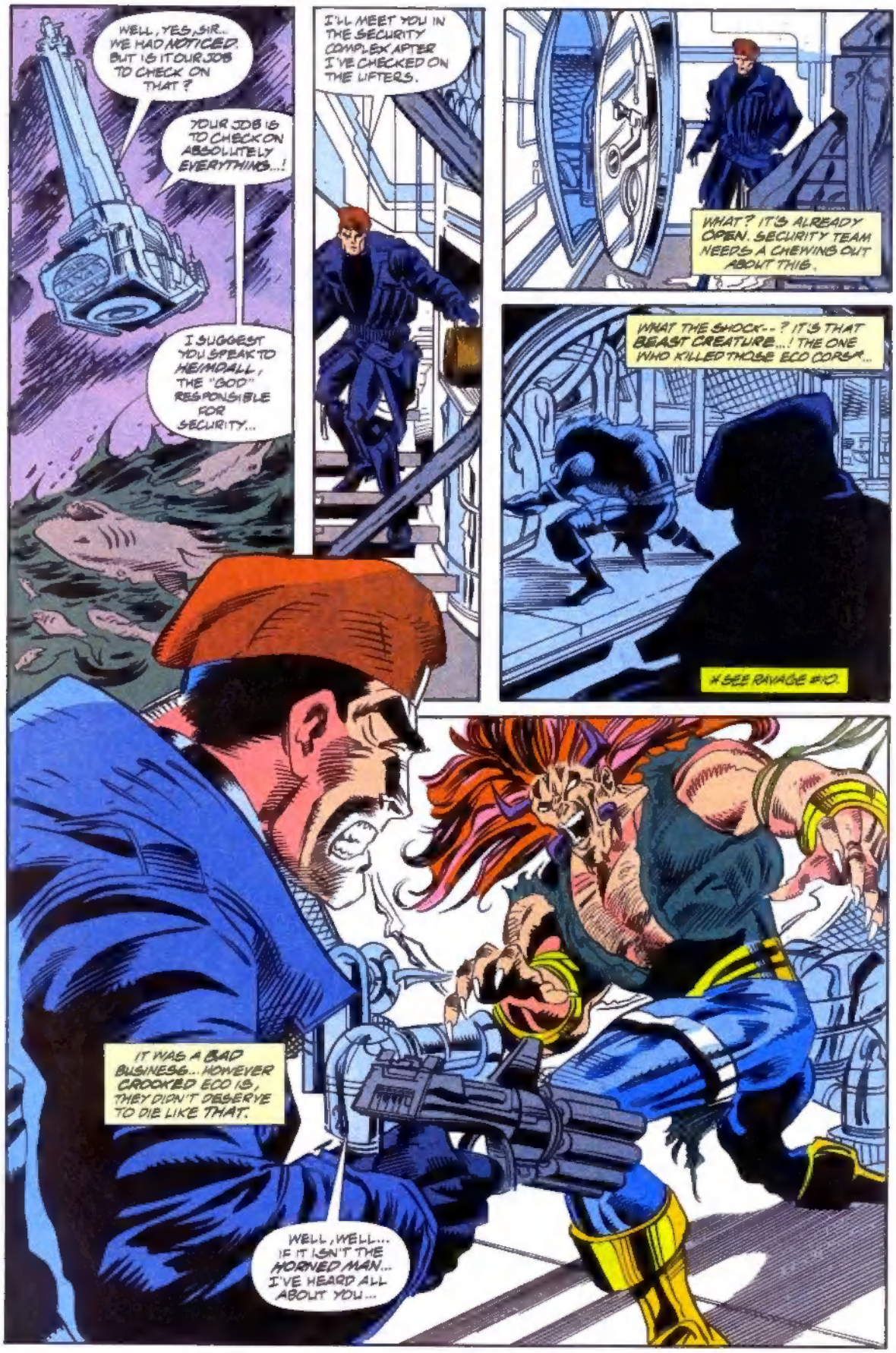
MCADAM--YOU'RE RAMBLING. I'M GETTING BORED. HOW'S THE HELA CANDIDATE COMING ALONG?
OH, ER... SHE'S IN THE CRYPT WITH TYLER STONE... IN MID-TRANSFORMATION... I'LL TAKE YOU DOWN TO SEE HER...
* SEE RAVAGE 2099 #5 AND #6


EXCELLENT. ACCORDING TO THE LATEST OPINION GRAPH, BALDUR'S ANTICS ARE MAKING THEIR MARK WITH THE GENERAL PUBLIC...
THEY'RE READY FOR CHANGE... READY FOR THE ICONOBLAST!


IT'S TEN O'CLOCK, HON... TIME FOR THE JAPANESE GAME SHOW...
OOOH! I WONDER IF THEY'LL DO THE ALIEN INSECTS DOWN THEIR PANTS AGAIN... THAT MAKES ME LAUGH!
CRAZY SHOW
STAY ON LINE, PEOPLE! PUBLIC-INFO INSERT!
NEWS FLASH
IT'S THE NAME ON EVERYONE'S LIPS... BALDUR! JUST WATCH THIS GUY IN ACTION...
OOOH! JOE! IT'S THAT MAN AGAIN! YOU MISSED HIM LAST TIME...
"WE HAVE INFORMATION THAT THERE ARE CHILDREN IN THERE, VIEWERS... THE BUILDING COULD COLLAPSE AT ANY MOMENT...
"BUT THAT DOESN'T STOP THE MIGHTY MAN OF VALHALLA...
"...AND HERE HE COMES! HE'S SAVED THEM, CITIZENS... AS I GUESS IN OUR HEARTS WE ALL KNEW HE WOULD."
"WE BRING THIS TO YOUR HOMES LIVE--AS THE HERO KNOWN AS BALDUR, ONCE AGAIN FEARLESSLY BATTLES TO SAVE LIVES...
"WHAT A GUY... JUST LOOK AT HIM GO...
NOW THAT IS WHAT I CALL A HERO!

WE'VE BEEN HERE A MONTH, AGENT GALLOWS... AND THE SECURITY'S WATERTIGHT; WE'VE INSTALLED ALL THE LATEST TECH...
WELL, THE LATEST TECH WON'T WITHSTAND AN ALL-OUT TERRORIST ATTACK--HAVE YOU CONSIDERED THAT, LIEUTENANT McGRUDER?
I, ER--WELL, WE'D SEE THE TERRORISTS COMING. ANY UNKNOWN CRAFT WOULD BE MONITORED BY THE SENSOR NET SYSTEM.
OH, YEAH...? WHAT'S THAT THEN?

THAT'S A "GREEN GLOBE" COMPANY JET... THEY ARE MAIN CONTRACTORS FOR THIS JOB. THEY HAVE CLEARANCE...
I SEE... AND YOU ABSOLUTELY KNOW THAT THE PILOT IS WHO YOU THINK HE IS... AND NOT A TERRORIST OR ASSASSIN?
POINT TAKEN, SIR. WE'LL LOOK INTO IT.
VERY GOOD. NOW I'D LIKE TO SEE THE MAIN ENGINE ROOM... THE GRAV LIFTERS... THAT'S WHERE ANY BOMB WOULD BE PLANTED.
AND THERE'S ONE OTHER SMALL MATTER...
"ARE YOU AWARE THE CITY IS SLOWLY MOVING?"


WELL, YES, SIR... WE HAD NOTICED. BUT IS IT OUR JOB TO CHECK ON THAT?
YOUR JOB IS TO CHECK ON ABSOLUTELY EVERYTHING...!
I SUGGEST YOU SPEAK TO HEIMDALL, THE "GOD" RESPONSIBLE FOR SECURITY...
I'LL MEET YOU IN THE SECURITY COMPLEX AFTER I'VE CHECKED ON THE LIFTERS.
WHAT? IT'S ALREADY OPEN. SECURITY TEAM NEEDS A CHEWING OUT ABOUT THIS.
WHAT THE SHOCK--? IT'S THAT BEAST CREATURE...! THE ONE WHO KILLED THOSE ECO CORPS*...
* SEE RAVAGE #10.
IT WAS A BAD BUSINESS... HOWEVER CROOKED ECO IS, THEY DIDN'T DESERVE TO DIE LIKE THAT.
WELL, WELL... IF IT ISN'T THE HORNED MAN... I'VE HEARD ALL ABOUT YOU...

I DON'T TAKE KINDLY TO SERIAL KILLERS WHO MURDER COPS...
...YOU NEED TO BE PUNISHED!
THE SHOWDOWN'S IN RAVAGE 2099 #14!
THEN, JOIN US NEXT MONTH FOR "THE HARD SKY!"